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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NAIROBI 004757

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SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KIBAKI
OF KENYA (NAIROBI, STATE HOUSE, NOVEMBER 8, 2005)

Classified By: D Chief of Staff Chris Padilla, Reasons: 1.4(B&D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Deputy Secretary Zoellick and Kenyan President Kibaki agreed November 8 to keep pressure on the Sudanese parties to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Zoellick pushed for greater Kenyan progress on counter-terrorism and the Kenyans urged greater U.S. engagement on Somalia. Domestically, Kenya hopes to enjoy continued economic growth, while Kibaki downplayed the implications of his own government's campaign for a new national constitution. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) PARTICIPANTS:

USG:

Deputy Secretary Zoellick

Ambassador William Bellamy

A/S Jendayi Frazer

NSC Cindy Courville

Embassy Notetaker Randy Fleitman

GOVERNMENT OF KENYA:

President Mwai Kibaki

Presidential Advisor Stanley Murage

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Ambassador

Boaz Mbaya

Notetaker

3. (C) Deputy Secretary Zoellick called on President Mwai Kibaki at State House late the afternoon of November 8. The Deputy Secretary noted that he had spent the day meeting with Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) leaders and representatives from the AU, UN and other international partners to press the rebels to unify, to respect the cease-fire in Darfur and to proceed with the talks in Abuja. He would next meet with Sudanese leaders in Khartoum to discuss setting up the Assessment and Evaluation Commission to oversee implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Vice President Taha had already agreed to this. Norwegian Tom Vraalsen was selected to Chair the Commission, and Kenyan General Sumbeiywo for Vice Chairman. The General was eager to get the Commission up and running, which is necessary to focus the Government of Sudan (GOS) on implementing the CPA and resuming the momentum lost after Garang's death in late July.

4. (C) Zoellick thanked President Kibaki for Kenya's role in Somalia and Sudan, including reconciliation among the Southern factions, and asked him to help the peace process in Southern Sudan move forward. He also expressed thanks for Kenya's support in counter-terrorism (CT), especially the good cooperation from the security services. Zoellick noted the importance of passing an anti-terrorism law and reviving the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) after this month's referendum, and renewed our offer to assist in the integration of investigations and prosecutions.

5. (C) President Kibaki agreed that implementation of the CPA was critical to repairing years of neglect in the South by the government of Sudan. Khartoum should contribute funds to building infrastructure and providing critical services and jobs for returning refugees. The region's needs were urgent, and there has been no progress to date. If the refugees, expectations were not met, instability was likely. Building up Southern Sudan would boost the regional economy.

Kibaki expressed concern that Khartoum's poor communications with the Southern Sudanese leaders and its appointment of an Oil Minister and other officials without consultation were bad signs.

6. (C) Zoellick noted that the National Petroleum Commission would be established under the CPA to divide oil revenues, which would give the regional government some resources to work with. He agreed on the importance of closely monitoring GOS implementation of the Petroleum Commission and the rest of the CPA. He asked about Kenyan assistance to help the regional government establish Ministries or institutions, but Kibaki denied any such assistance, claiming it would have been interference in a delicate situation.

7. (C) Ambassador Mbaya called for the international community, particularly developed countries, to help allay both sides, concerns about the CPA -- and to push the parties to implement it. He agreed that implementation of the CPA is also important to stabilizing the situation in

Darfur. He claimed that, although the next AU Summit will be held in Khartoum, it has not yet been determined whether Sudan will accede to the Chairmanship.

18. (C) Prompted by the Deputy Secretary to comment on political and economic developments in Kenya, President Kibaki said there were no real issues at stake in the constitutional referendum campaign. No one was even debating the merits of the new constitution. The campaign against the draft Constitution, he claimed, was entirely a struggle for political advantage. Economic news was mostly good, Kibaki asserted. He hoped the 5% growth of 2005 would continue in the next two years, but worried that drought had delayed the fall planting, and could hurt growth in 2006 and force his government to spend funds on drought relief, rather than development. Murage predicted GDP growth in 2006 over 5%, and expected rising profits at parastatals and increasing efficiency in Kenyan Government agencies would more than compensate for increased drought relief subsidies.

19. (C) In response to a question from about U.S. policy in Somalia, A/S Frazer said she was reviewing the current policy, which was to build up transitional institutions, but not to take sides. The U.S. is taking a leadership role in many quarters in Africa, including Sudan, and may do so with the Ethiopian-Eritrean dispute. But our policy has been to let the UN and IGAD continue to take the lead in Somalia. Mbaya said stability was needed in Somalia, and Kenya would like to see the developed countries build up the capacity of Somalia's military and civil institutions. The UN arms embargo was a problem that could be circumvented by deploying limited forces in Somalia. The Deputy Secretary stated that President Bush shared Kenya's security concerns about Somalia. Terrorist cells are active there, creating a real threat.

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